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CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Bernau

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EVALUATION

DATE OF CONTENT 2 to 14 December 1953

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 14 January 1954

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

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1. On 14 December 1953, former Army Clothing Depot I, Bernau, was occupied by about 3,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, and including many recruits. About 300 to 400 troops engaged alternately in field training and drill. After 10 December, about 60 troops daily received training on 4 x 100-mm AT guns. About 8 x 57-mm AT guns, about 100 vehicles, including trucks; and 22 prime movers were seen in the sheds. Troops were

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2. On 14 December, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne was occupied by about 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia. Up to 250 troops were repeatedly observed drilling in the barracks yard. Several 100 troops were repeatedly observed in the Schoenow training area, where they received training in firing, including marksmanship. Entrenching work and the construction of field fortifications was under way in the training area. Seven 57-mm AT guns and 4 T-34/85 tanks were seen in the installation.

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3. On 14 December, the former SS Brieftaubenstation (homing pigeon station) was occupied by about 400 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with artillery insignia. An undetermined number of troops received instruction on 4 x 76-mm AA guns in the quartering area.

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4. On 12 December, the Luftnachrichten Kaserne was occupied to capacity. On 6 December, a column of about 400 to 480 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and preceded by a military band was seen on the Bernau-Schoenow road, marching toward the training area. The troops returned at about noon. Source had the impression that these troops were recruits.

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
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5. On 2 December, the main building of former Army Clothing Depot I was lighted about 95 percent at dusk. On 7 December, sources observed 115 trucks in front of 5 wooden sheds and 22 guns in front of a garage. There was no training.
6. On 2 December, about 70 percent of the windows of the former SS Brieftaubenstation were lighted after nightfall.

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 Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the occupation of the installations mentioned over reports of late November.

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 It can be assumed that all elements of the 71st Light Arty Brig (US) were in their quarters in the former Army Clothing Depot I also on 2 December.

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